

# Acceptance And Commitment Therapy Steven Hayes

# Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT): A Deep Dive into Steven Hayes' Groundbreaking Contribution

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Dr. Steven C. Hayes is a highly influential figure in the field of psychology, renowned for his pivotal role in developing and disseminating Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT). His extensive qualifications include being a Professor Emeritus at the University of Nevada, Reno, and a prolific researcher and author with numerous publications on ACT and related behavioral and cognitive therapies. Dr. Hayes' contributions extend beyond theoretical frameworks; his work significantly impacts clinical practice, informing the treatment of a wide range of psychological disorders. His expertise and decades-long commitment to ACT provide unparalleled credibility to his work on this subject.

## **The Historical Context of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)**

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), developed primarily by Steven Hayes, emerged as a response to limitations perceived within traditional cognitive-behavioral therapies (CBT). While CBT focuses heavily on changing thoughts and feelings, ACT acknowledges the inevitability of difficult thoughts and emotions. Instead of fighting them, ACT encourages acceptance of these internal experiences while committing to valued actions.

The roots of ACT lie in several influential theoretical frameworks:

**Functional contextualism:** This philosophical perspective, central to ACT's development, emphasizes understanding psychological events within their context. It moves away from searching for internal causes of behavior and focuses on the function of thoughts and feelings in relation to the individual's environment and goals.

**Relational Frame Theory (RFT):** This theory, also developed by Hayes, explains how humans learn to relate to stimuli in complex and abstract ways, leading to the development of language and cognition. It provides a scientific basis for understanding how thoughts and feelings can become problematic.

**Behavioral principles:** ACT utilizes established behavioral techniques, such as mindfulness and acceptance exercises, to help individuals change their relationship with their thoughts and feelings.

Historically, the rise of ACT coincided with a growing awareness of the limitations of solely focusing on changing thoughts and feelings in psychotherapy. The emphasis on acceptance as a therapeutic strategy offered a novel approach, moving away from the often-struggling effort to control or eliminate internal experiences. This shift significantly impacted the field, offering a refreshing alternative for those who found traditional CBT approaches ineffective or overly strenuous. Steven

Hayes' work was instrumental in establishing this new direction, shaping ACT into a recognized and effective therapeutic approach.

## **Current Relevance of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT)**

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) remains incredibly relevant in today's world due to its unique approach to psychological challenges. Its effectiveness has been extensively researched and demonstrated across a wide range of conditions, including:

**Anxiety disorders:** ACT helps individuals to accept anxious feelings without letting them dictate their actions, allowing them to engage in valued behaviors despite discomfort.

**Depression:** By shifting the focus from negative thoughts to valued actions, ACT can help individuals find meaning and purpose, even when experiencing depressive symptoms.

**Chronic pain:** ACT provides a framework for managing chronic pain by accepting the pain experience while pursuing a meaningful life despite the pain.

**Stress management:** ACT's emphasis on mindfulness and acceptance assists individuals in navigating stressful situations more effectively.

**Trauma:** ACT helps individuals process traumatic experiences by fostering acceptance of memories and emotions while cultivating a sense of self-compassion and commitment to valued living.

The increasing prevalence of stress, anxiety, and other mental health concerns in modern society underscores ACT's continued relevance. Its emphasis on acceptance, mindfulness, and values-based action makes it particularly well-suited to address the challenges of living in a rapidly changing and often unpredictable world. The simplicity and directness of ACT's message—"accept what you can't change, change what you can, and know the difference"—resonates widely with individuals seeking to improve their mental well-being. The ongoing development and refinement of ACT, guided by research and clinical experience, continue to solidify its place as a prominent therapeutic modality.

## **Summary of Findings and Conclusions**

ACT, as developed and championed by Steven Hayes, offers a compelling alternative to traditional approaches that emphasize solely changing thoughts and feelings. Its focus on acceptance, mindfulness, and commitment to values provides a powerful framework for managing psychological challenges. Research consistently supports the effectiveness of ACT across various clinical populations and conditions. Its continued relevance is ensured by its adaptability to diverse contexts and its ability to address the multifaceted challenges of contemporary life. The core principles of ACT remain consistent: focusing on what matters most in life and building psychological flexibility to navigate inevitable difficulties. This approach fosters a more holistic and sustainable well-being, offering a path towards a more meaningful and fulfilling life.

## **Publisher and Editor**

While a specific publisher and editor for this analysis aren't named (as this is a newly created analysis), the authority on topics related to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) and Steven Hayes' contributions would reside with publishers specializing in clinical psychology and behavioral therapies. These might include Guilford Press, Oxford University Press, or other reputable publishers with extensive catalogs in the field of psychology. Similarly, an editor with relevant experience would hold advanced degrees in psychology and a strong track record of publications in related areas such as behavioral therapy, mindfulness, or cognitive psychology. Their expertise would add significant credibility to the published work by ensuring the accuracy and clarity of the information presented.

## **Conclusion**

Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, significantly advanced by the work of Steven C. Hayes, represents a paradigm shift in psychological treatment. Moving beyond the sole focus on changing internal experiences, ACT empowers individuals to embrace their thoughts and feelings while pursuing a life guided by their values. Its continued research and widespread application demonstrate its enduring value in addressing a broad spectrum of mental health concerns. ACT's emphasis on psychological flexibility provides a path toward resilience and a more meaningful life in an increasingly complex world.

## **FAQs**

1. What is the core difference between ACT and CBT? While both are evidence-based therapies, CBT focuses heavily on changing thoughts and feelings, whereas ACT emphasizes acceptance of these internal experiences while committing to valued actions.
2. Is ACT suitable for all mental health conditions? ACT has demonstrated effectiveness across a wide range of conditions, but its suitability depends on individual needs and preferences. A mental health professional can assess its appropriateness for specific cases.
3. How does ACT incorporate mindfulness? Mindfulness techniques help individuals observe thoughts and feelings without judgment, fostering acceptance and reducing reactivity.
4. What are "valued actions" in ACT? Valued actions are behaviors aligned with an individual's core values, providing direction and purpose in life.
5. Can ACT be self-taught? While self-help resources exist, working with a trained ACT therapist is crucial for optimal benefit, as they can provide tailored guidance and support.

6. How long does ACT therapy typically last? The duration varies depending on individual needs and the complexity of the issue being addressed.
7. Is ACT suitable for children and adolescents? Adapted versions of ACT are effective for young people, often incorporating play therapy or other age-appropriate techniques.
8. What are the potential drawbacks of ACT? Some individuals may find the emphasis on acceptance challenging initially, and it may not be suitable for everyone.
9. Where can I find a qualified ACT therapist? The Association for Contextual Behavioral Science (ACBS) website is a good resource for locating certified ACT therapists.

## Related Articles

1. "Acceptance and Commitment Therapy: An Experiential Approach to Behavior Change" by Steven C. Hayes: A foundational text outlining the principles and practices of ACT.
2. "Get Out of Your Mind & Into Your Life: The New Acceptance and Commitment Therapy" by Steven C. Hayes, Kirk D. Strosahl, and Kelly G. Wilson: A practical guide for applying ACT principles in daily life.
3. "Mindfulness and Acceptance: Expanding the Cognitive-Behavioral Tradition" edited by Steven C. Hayes and Kirk D. Strosahl: This collection of articles explores the integration of mindfulness and acceptance into therapeutic practice.
4. "Relational Frame Theory: A Post-Skinnerian Account of Human Language and Cognition" by Steven C. Hayes: A detailed exposition of the theoretical underpinnings of ACT.
5. "A Functional Approach to the Treatment of Depression" by Steven C. Hayes: This explores ACT's application to the treatment of depression.
6. "ACT for Anxiety: An Acceptance and Commitment Therapy Approach to Overcoming Anxiety" by Russ Harris: A specific ACT approach for dealing with anxiety.
7. "The Mindfulness and Acceptance Workbook for Anxiety" by John Forsyth and Matthew McKay: This offers practical exercises and techniques for working with anxiety through a mindfulness-based approach, consistent with ACT principles.
8. "The Happiness Trap: How to Stop Struggling and Start Living" by Russ Harris: Explores happiness and well-being from an ACT perspective.
9. Research articles published in the journal Behaviour Research and Therapy: Numerous empirical studies on ACT's effectiveness can be found in this leading journal.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy** Steven C. Hayes, Jason Lillis, 2012 Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a unique

empirically-based psychological intervention that uses acceptance and mindfulness processes, and commitment and behaviour change processes to produce psychological flexibility. Steven C. Hayes, who helped develop ACT, and co-author Jason Lillis provide an overview of ACT's main influences and its basic principles. In this succinct and understandable survey, the authors show how ACT illuminates the ways that language encourages unhelpful skirmishing in clients' psychic lives, and how to use ACT to help clients accept private experiences, become more mindful of thoughts, develop greater clarity about personal values, and commit to needed behaviour change. The latest edition in the Theories of Psychotherapy Series. Acceptance and Commitment Therapy examines the therapy's history and process, evaluates the therapy's evidence base and effectiveness, and suggests future directions in the therapy's development..

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: A Practical Guide to Acceptance and Commitment Therapy** Steven C. Hayes, Kirk D. Strosahl, 2013-03-19 This book is the most practical clinical guide on Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT said as one word, not as initials) yet available. It is designed to show how the ACT model and techniques apply to various disorders, settings, and delivery options. The authors of these chapters are experts in applying ACT in these various areas, and it is intriguing how the same core principles of ACT are given a nip here and a tuck there to fit it to so many issues. The purpose of this book, in part, is to embolden researchers and clinicians to begin to apply ACT wherever it seems to fit. The chapters in the book demonstrate that ACT may be a useful treatment approach for a very wide range of clinical problems. Already there are controlled data in many of these areas, and soon that database will be much larger. The theory underlying ACT (Relational Frame Theory or RFT-and yes, here you say the initials) makes a powerful claim: psychopathology is, to a significant degree, built into human language. Further, it suggests ways to diminish destructive language-based functions and ways of augmenting helpful ones. To the extent that this model is correct, ACT should apply to a very wide variety of behavioral issues because of the centrality of language and cognition in human functioning.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, Second Edition** Steven C. Hayes, Kirk D. Strosahl, Kelly G. Wilson, 2016-08-29 Since the original publication of this seminal work, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) has come into its own as a widely practiced approach to helping people change. This book provides the definitive statement of ACT--from conceptual and empirical foundations to clinical techniques--written by its originators. ACT is based on the idea that psychological rigidity is a root cause of a wide range of clinical problems. The authors describe effective, innovative ways to cultivate psychological flexibility by detecting and targeting six key processes: defusion, acceptance, attention to the present moment, self-awareness, values, and committed action. Sample therapeutic exercises and patient-therapist dialogues are integrated throughout. New to This Edition \*Reflects tremendous advances in ACT clinical applications, theory building, and research. \*Psychological flexibility is now the central organizing focus. \*Expanded coverage of mindfulness, the therapeutic relationship, relational learning, and case formulation. \*Restructured to be more clinician friendly and accessible; focuses on the moment-by-moment process of therapy.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: A Liberated Mind** Steven C. Hayes, 2019 In this landmark book, the originator and pioneering researcher into Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) lays out the psychological flexibility skills that make it one of the most powerful approaches research has yet to offer. Science shows that they are useful in virtually every area--mental health, physical health, social processes, and performance.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Get Out of Your Mind and Into Your Life** Steven Hayes, Spencer Smith, 2009-09 Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) is a new approach to psychotherapy that rethinks even the most basic assumptions of mental well-being. Starting with the assumption that the normal condition of human existence is suffering and struggle, ACT works by first encouraging individuals to accept their lives as they are in the here and now.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy.**

Second Edition Steven C. Hayes, Kirk D. Strosahl, Kelly G. Wilson, 2011-01-01 Since the original publication of this seminal work, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) has come into its own as a widely practiced approach to helping people change. This book provides the definitive statement of ACT—from conceptual and empirical foundations to clinical techniques—written by its originators. ACT is based on the idea that psychological rigidity is a root cause of a wide range of clinical problems. The authors describe effective, innovative ways to cultivate psychological flexibility by detecting and targeting six key processes: defusion, acceptance, attention to the present moment, self-awareness, values, and committed action. Sample therapeutic exercises and patient-therapist dialogues are integrated throughout. New to This Edition \*Reflects tremendous advances in ACT clinical applications, theory building, and research. \*Psychological flexibility is now the central organizing focus. \*Expanded coverage of mindfulness, the therapeutic relationship, relational learning, and case formulation. \*Restructured to be more clinician friendly and accessible; focuses on the moment-by-moment process of therapy.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *A Liberated Mind*** Steven Hayes, 2019-08-27 Over the last 35 years, Steven C. Hayes and his colleagues have developed Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) with many hundreds of studies supporting the impact of his approach on everything from chronic pain to weight loss to prejudice and bigotry. *A Liberated Mind* is the summary of Steven's life's work which will teach readers how to live better, happier and more fulfilled lives by applying the six key processes of ACT. Put together these processes teach us to pivot: to "defuse" rather than fuse with our thoughts; to see life from a new perspective; and to discover our chosen values, those qualities of being that fuel meaning. Steve shares fascinating research results like how ACT techniques decreased typing errors on a clerical test or showed that positive affirmations actually increase negative emotion. And he weaves them with stories of clients and colleagues as well as his own riveting story of healing himself of a severe panic disorder, which is how the idea of psychological flexibility was born. *A Liberated Mind* is a powerful and important book about a new form of psychology, destined to become a modern classic of narrative psychology on par with *Daring Greatly* and *Rising Strong* by Brene Brown, or Carol Dweck's *Mindset*.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *Learning ACT*** Jason B. Luoma, Steven C. Hayes, Robyn D. Walser, 2017-12-01 Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) is among the most remarkable developments in contemporary psychotherapy. This second edition of the pioneering ACT skills-training manual for clinicians provides a comprehensive update—essential for both experienced practitioners and those new to using ACT and its applications. ACT is a proven-effective treatment for numerous mental health issues, including depression, anxiety, stress, addictions, eating disorders, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder, and more. With important revisions based on new developments in contextual behavioral science, *Learning ACT*, Second Edition includes up-to-date exercises and references, as well as material on traditional, evidence-based behavioral techniques for use within the ACT framework. In this fully revised and updated edition of *Learning ACT*, you'll find workbook-format exercises to help you understand and take advantage of ACT's unique six process model—both as a tool for diagnosis and case conceptualization, and as a basis for structuring treatments for clients. You'll also find up-to-the-minute information on process coaching, new experiential exercises, an increased focus on functional analysis, and downloadable extras that include role-played examples of the core ACT processes in action. By practicing the exercises in this workbook, you'll learn how this powerful modality can improve clients' psychological flexibility and help them to live better lives. Whether you're a clinician looking for in-depth training and better treatment outcomes for individual clients, a student seeking a better understanding of this powerful modality, or anyone interested in contextual behavioral science, this second edition provides a comprehensive revision to an important ACT resource.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *Treating Trauma and Addiction with the Felt Sense Polyvagal Model*** Jan Winhall, 2021-06-24 In sharp contrast with the current top-down medicalized method to treating addiction, this book presents the felt sense polyvagal model (FSPM),

a paradigm-shifting, bottom-up approach that considers addiction as an adaptive attempt to regulate emotional states and trauma. The felt sense polyvagal model draws from Porges' polyvagal theory, Gendelin's felt sense, and Lewis' learning model of addiction to offer a graphically illustrated and deeply embodied way of conceptualizing and treating addiction through supporting autonomic regulation. This model de-pathologizes addiction as it teaches embodied practices through tapping into the felt sense, the body's inner wisdom. Chapters first present a theoretical framework and demonstrate the graphic model in both clinician and client versions and then teach the clinician how to use the model in practice by providing detailed treatment strategies. This text's informed, compassionate approach to understanding and treating trauma and addiction is adaptable to any school of psychotherapy and will appeal to addiction experts, trauma specialists, and clinicians in all mental health fields.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Mindfulness at Work** Steven C. Hayes, Frank W. Bond, Dermot Barnes-Holmes, 2006 'Acceptance and Mindfulness at Work' presents behavioural analysis of human language that's ready to use, with applied extensions proven to have a significant impact in organisational settings.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Mindfulness and Acceptance** Steven C. Hayes, Victoria M. Follette, Marsha M. Linehan, 2011-06-22 This volume examines the role of mindfulness principles and practices in a range of well-established cognitive and behavioral treatment approaches. Leading scientist-practitioners describe how their respective modalities incorporate such nontraditional themes as mindfulness, acceptance, values, spirituality, being in relationship, focusing on the present moment, and emotional deepening. Coverage includes acceptance and commitment therapy, dialectical behavior therapy, mindfulness-based cognitive therapy, integrative behavioral couple therapy, behavioral activation, and functional analytic psychotherapy. In every chapter, the authors describe their clinical methods and goals, articulate their theoretical models, and examine similarities to and differences from other approaches both inside and outside behavior therapy.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: ACT Made Simple** Russ Harris, 2019-05-01 NOTE FROM THE PUBLISHER: Due to the recent illegal counterfeiting of this book, we cannot guarantee book quality when purchased through third-party sellers. Now fully-revised and updated, this second edition of ACT Made Simple includes new information and chapters on self-compassion, flexible perspective taking, working with trauma, and more. Why is it so hard to be happy? Why is life so difficult? Why do humans suffer so much? And what can we realistically do about it? No matter how rewarding your job, as a mental health professional, you may sometimes feel helpless in the face of these questions. You are also well aware of the challenges and frustrations that can present during therapy. If you're looking for ways to optimize your client sessions, consider joining the many thousands of therapists and life coaches worldwide who are learning acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). With a focus on mindfulness, client values, and a commitment to change, ACT is proven-effective in treating depression, anxiety, stress, addictions, eating disorders, schizophrenia, borderline personality disorder (BPD), and myriad other psychological issues. It's also a revolutionary new way to view the human condition—packed full of exciting new tools, techniques, and strategies for promoting profound behavioral change. A practical primer, ideal for ACT newcomers and experienced ACT professionals alike, ACT Made Simple offers clear explanations of the six ACT processes and a set of real-world tips and solutions for rapidly and effectively implementing them in your practice. This book gives you everything you need to start using ACT with your clients for impressive results. Inside, you'll find: scripts, exercises, metaphors, and worksheets to use with your clients; a session-by-session guide to implementing ACT; transcripts from therapy sessions; guidance for creating your own therapeutic techniques and exercises; and practical tips to overcome "therapy roadblocks." This book aims to take the complex theory and practice of ACT and make it accessible and enjoyable for therapists and clients.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Encyclopedia of Cognitive Behavior Therapy** Stephanie Felgoise, Arthur M. Nezu, Christine M. Nezu, Mark A. Reinecke, 2006-06-18

One of the hallmarks of cognitive behavior therapy is its diversity today. Since its inception, over twenty five years ago, this once revolutionary approach to psychotherapy has grown to encompass treatments across the full range of psychological disorders. The Encyclopedia of Cognitive Behavior Therapy brings together all of the key aspects of this field distilling decades of clinical wisdom into one authoritative volume. With a preface by Aaron T. Beck, founder of the cognitive approach, the Encyclopedia features entries by noted experts including Arthur Freeman, Windy Dryden, Marsha Linehan, Edna Foa, and Thomas Ollendick to name but a few, and reviews the latest empirical data on first-line therapies and combination approaches, to give readers both insights into clients' problems and the most effective treatments available. • Common disorders and conditions: anxiety, depression, OCD, phobias, sleep disturbance, eating disorders, grief, anger • Essential components of treatment: the therapeutic relationship, case formulation, homework, relapse prevention • Treatment methods: dialectical behavior therapy, REBT, paradoxical interventions, social skills training, stress inoculation, play therapy, CBT/medicine combinations • Applications of CBT with specific populations: children, adolescents, couples, dually diagnosed clients, the elderly, veterans, refugees • Emerging problems: Internet addiction, chronic pain, narcolepsy pathological gambling, jet lag All entries feature reference lists and are cross-indexed. The Encyclopedia of Cognitive Behavior Therapy capably fills practitioners' and educators' needs for an idea book, teaching text, or quick access to practical, workable interventions.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Process-Based CBT** Steven C. Hayes, Stefan G. Hofmann, 2018-01-02 Edited by Steven C. Hayes and Stefan G. Hofmann, and based on the new training standards developed by the Inter-Organizational Task Force on Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology Doctoral Education, this groundbreaking textbook presents the core competencies of cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) in an innovative, practically applicable way, with contributions from some of the luminaries in the field of behavioral science. CBT is one of the most proven-effective and widely used forms of psychotherapy today. But while there are plenty of books that provide an overview of CBT, this is the first to present the newest recommendations set forth by a special task force of the Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies—and that focuses on the application of these interventions based on a variety of approaches for doctoral-level education and training. Starting with an exploration of the science and theoretical foundations of CBT, then moving into a thorough presentation of the clinical processes, this book constitutes an accessible, comprehensive guide to grasping and using even the most difficult competencies. Each chapter of Process-Based CBT is written by a leading authority in that field, and their combined expertise presents the best of behavior therapy and analysis, cognitive therapy, and the acceptance and mindfulness therapies. Most importantly, in addition to gaining an up-to-date understanding of the core processes, with this premiere text you'll learn exactly how to put them into practice for maximum efficacy. For practitioners, researchers, students, instructors, and other professionals working with CBT, this breakthrough textbook—poised to set the standard in coursework and training—provides the guidance you need to fully comprehend and utilize the core competencies of CBT in a way that honors the behavioral, cognitive, and acceptance and mindfulness wings of the tradition.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance & Commitment Therapy for Anxiety Disorders** Georg H. Eifert, John P. Forsyth, 2005 Accompanying CD-ROM includes client worksheets, questionnaires, and inventories.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Mastering the Clinical Conversation** Matthieu Villatte, Jennifer L. Villatte, Steven C. Hayes, 2019-09-06 This compelling book provides psychotherapists with evidence-based strategies for harnessing the power of language to free clients from life-constricting patterns and promote psychological flourishing. Grounded in relational frame theory (RFT), the volume shares innovative ways to enhance assessment and intervention using specific kinds of clinical conversations. Techniques are demonstrated for activating and shaping behavior change, building a flexible sense of self, fostering meaning and motivation, creating powerful experiential metaphors, and strengthening the therapeutic relationship. User-friendly



features include more than 80 clinical vignettes with commentary by the authors, plus a Quick Guide to Using RFT in Psychotherapy filled with sample phrases and questions to ask. See also two works by Paul L. Wachtel--Therapeutic Communication, Second Edition, which provides another vital perspective on language in psychotherapy, and Making Room for the Disavowed, which integrates psychodynamic thinking with ACT and other contemporary approaches.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: The Act in Context** Steven C. Hayes, 2015-10-16 The Canonical Papers of Steven C. Hayes is a compilation of his most pivotal articles written from 1982-2012. Through these selected papers, Hayes again revisits the theoretical struggles between behavioral and cognitive-behavior theories, taking us from the 1980s into present day, discussing the breakthroughs and follies. Using this as a focus point, he discusses the tradition of behavior analysis and its difficulties in addressing human language and cognition. Moving forward into the 90s, he chronicles the changes in a behavioral approach that emerge from a contextual perspective on human cognition, and lays out the foundation for a contextual behavioral science approach that he argues is more likely to lead to an understanding of human action and an alleviation of human suffering. Although the articles have previously been published, they have been edited and compiled ensure this branch of research is clear to the modern audience. The compilation was chosen by Dr. Hayes to enhance his vision for a functional contextual approach to complex human behavior.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance & Commitment Therapy for the Treatment of Post-traumatic Stress Disorder & Trauma-related Problems** Robyn D. Walser, Darrah Westrup, 2007 An indispensable resource for mental health professionals, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for the Treatment of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and Trauma-Related Problems offers a practical and accessible yet theoretically complete approach to using the principles of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) to treat post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and acute trauma-related symptoms.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies** Freddy Jackson Brown, Duncan Gillard, 2016-03-14 Harness ACT to live a healthier life Do you want to change your relationship with painful thoughts and feelings that are holding you back from making changes to improve your life? In Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies, you'll discover how to identify negative and unhealthy modes of thinking and apply Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT) principles throughout your day-to-day life, creating a healthier, richer and more meaningful existence with yourself and others. Closely connected to Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT), ACT is an evidence-based, NICE-approved therapy that uses acceptance and mindfulness strategies mixed in with commitment and behaviour-changing strategies to help people increase their psychological flexibility in both their personal and professional lives. With the help of this straightforward and authoritative guide, you'll find out how to target unpleasant feelings and not act upon them—without sending yourself spiraling down the rabbit hole. The objective is not happiness; rather, it is to be present with what life brings you and to move toward valued behaviour. Shows you how to banish unhelpful thoughts Guides you to making room for painful feelings Teaches you how to engage fully with your here-and-now experience Helps you cope with anxiety, depression, stress, OCD and psychosis Whether you're looking to practice self care at home or are thinking about seeing an ACT therapist, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy For Dummies makes it easier to live a healthier and more productive life in spite of—and alongside—unpleasantness.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: The Big Book of ACT Metaphors** Jill A. Stoddard, Niloofar Afari, 2014-04-01 Metaphors and exercises play an incredibly important part in the successful delivery of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT). These powerful tools go far in helping clients connect with their values and give them the motivation needed to make a real, conscious commitment to change. Unfortunately, many of the metaphors that clinicians use have become stale and ineffective. That's why you need fresh, new resources for your professional library. In this breakthrough book, two ACT researchers provide an essential A-Z resource guide that

includes tons of new metaphors and experiential exercises to help promote client acceptance, defusion from troubling thoughts, and values-based action. The book also includes scripts tailored to different client populations, and special metaphors and exercises that address unique problems that may sometimes arise in your therapy sessions. Several ACT texts and workbooks have been published for the treatment of a variety of psychological problems. However, no one resource exists where you can find an exhaustive list of metaphors and experiential exercises geared toward the six core elements of ACT. Whether you are treating a client with anxiety, depression, trauma, or an eating disorder, this book will provide you with the skills needed to improve lives, one exercise at a time. With a special foreword by ACT cofounder Steven C. Hayes, PhD, this book is a must-have for any ACT Practitioner.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Mindfulness and Acceptance for Addictive Behaviors** Steven C. Hayes, Michael E. Levin, 2012 The articles in *Mindfulness and Acceptance for Addictive Behaviors* introduce the latest research on using acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) and other mindfulness and acceptance approaches for the treatment of a variety of addictions, including substance abuse, gambling addiction, pornography addiction, smoking, and bingeing. This book features articles by Linda Dimeff, Jennifer Sayrs, Kelly Wilson, Jonathan Bricker, and other leading researchers in this field.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Psychotherapy Theories and Techniques** Gary R. VandenBos, Edward Meidenbauer, Julia Frank-McNeil, 2014 Intended for students and practitioners, this volume provides a unique look at contemporary psychotherapy theory and the specific interventions associated with each orientation.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Things Might Go Terribly, Horribly Wrong** Kelly G. Wilson, Troy DuFrene, 2010 Wilson and DuFrene help readers foster the flexibility they need to keep from succumbing to the avoidable forces of anxiety, and open themselves to the often uncomfortable complexities and possibilities of life.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance & Mindfulness Treatments for Children & Adolescents** Laurie A. Greco, Steven C. Hayes, 2008 The essays in *Acceptance and Mindfulness Treatments for Children and Adolescents*--which are edited by two luminaries in the field of third-wave behavior therapy--offer a much-needed adaptation of these revolutionary techniques for young people and their families, providing a wealth of new approaches to therapists, counselors, and other helping professionals.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Chronic Pain** JoAnne Dahl, Carmen Luciano, Kelly G. Wilson, 2005-04-05 Professionals who work with patients and clients struggling with chronic pain will benefit from this values-based behavior change program for managing the effects of pain. *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Chronic Pain* addresses case formulation and clinical techniques for working with pain patients through a combination of practical instruction and a treatment scenario narrative that follows a patient through an ACT-based intervention. An invaluable resource for rehabilitation specialists, psychologists, physicians, nurses, and others.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Learning Process-Based Therapy** Stefan G. Hofmann, Steven C. Hayes, David N. Lorscheid, 2021-12-01 Step-by-step guidance for implementing process-based therapy in practice Evidence-based mental health treatments—including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT)—have long been defined in terms of scientifically validated protocols focused on syndromes. This is rapidly changing. A process focus is now emerging for evidence-based therapies, as the era of “protocols for syndromes,” passes away. This groundbreaking book offers concrete strategies for adopting a process-based approach in your clinical practice, and provides step-by-step guidance for formulating effective treatment plans. Written by renowned psychologists Steven C. Hayes and Stefan G. Hofmann, this manual will show you how to utilize the core competencies of process-based therapy (PBT) in a way that honors the behavioral, cognitive, and acceptance and mindfulness wings of CBT and builds bridges to other models. In the book, you’ll find a comprehensive road map to the theoretical foundations of PBT, as

well as techniques for creating customized treatments that address the unique needs of each client—leading to better therapeutic outcomes. Whether you're a clinician or student of the behavioral sciences, this book has everything you need to understand and implement PBT in your work.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Prosocial** Paul W.B. Atkins, David Sloan Wilson, Steven C. Hayes, 2019-10-01 A groundbreaking, comprehensive program for designing effective and socially equitable groups of all sizes—from businesses and social justice groups to global organizations. Whether you work in business or schools, volunteer in neighborhoods or church organizations, or are involved in social justice and activism, you understand the enormous power of groups to enact powerful and lasting change in the world. But how exactly do you design, build, and sustain effective groups? Based on the work of Nobel Prize winning economist Elinor Ostrom and grounded in contextual behavioral science, evolutionary science, and acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), Prosocial presents a practical, step-by-step approach to help you energize and strengthen your business or organization. Using the Prosocial model, you'll learn to design groups that are more harmonious, have better member or employee retention, have better relationships with other groups or business partners, and have more success and longevity. Most importantly, you'll learn to target the characteristics that foster cooperation and collaboration—key ingredients for any effective group.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Daring to Challenge OCD** Joan Davidson, 2014-08-01 If you have obsessive-compulsive disorder (OCD), you may suffer from obsessive thoughts and anxiety, and use compulsions to alleviate your distress. You know, more than anyone, how debilitating this condition can be. But you may also be reluctant to start treatment due to fears and misconceptions regarding therapy—particularly exposure and response prevention (ERP) therapy. You may even think of a number of reasons not to go, or to drop out, but if you are committed to getting better, you need to take that important step toward healing. ERP is a proven-effective treatment that can help people with OCD break free from the constraints of their disorder; however, starting treatment can feel frightening. Many people wonder what treatment will be like and how they will ever face some of their worst fears. They want to hear from others who have successfully completed therapy. In Daring to Challenge OCD, anxiety specialist Joan Davidson, PhD, gives a thorough overview of ERP, what to expect during treatment, and offers gentle guidance to help you finally overcome the common fears and obstacles that can stand in the way of getting the help you need. Three clients with different OCD symptoms share their personal stories and insights about OCD and treatment. If you are considering treatment, you may ask yourself, What will my therapist expect me to do? Will treatment be too difficult for me to handle? Will I be asked to do things that put me at risk? What are realistic expectations for recovery? This book will demystify treatment for OCD so that you can face your fears and start changing your life. And if you are a therapist helping clients build motivation to engage in ERP, this book offers real treatment stories and exercises for clients, making it an invaluable resource for therapists and wonderful suggested reading for clients building motivation to commit to treatment.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Mindfulness for Two** Kelly G. Wilson, Troy DuFrene, 2009 Accompanying DVD-ROM contains ... video, audio, and reproducible worksheets and assessments.--DVD-ROM label.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: ACT Verbatim for Depression and Anxiety** Steven C. Hayes, Michael P. Twohig, 2008-05-01 Copublished with Context Press This collection of transcripts, organized and annotated by Michael P. Twohig and acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) founder Steven C. Hayes, guides you through ACT-based therapy processes session-by-session. The transcripts featured in ACT Verbatim present common situations that arise in clinical practice, while the commentary explains how to identify the six target ACT processes and help clients work through them to achieve psychological flexibility. For the most detailed view of ACT therapy, the clinical transcripts included here follow the development of one client struggling with anger, anxiety, and depression. Since ACT is process- rather than

technique-oriented, this kind of in the moment analysis is a singularly effective way to learn to apply this therapeutic model. These transcripts will help you:

- Identify client indicators that suggest you should target a specific process in therapy
- Create useful exercises to foster client development in the core processes of ACT
- Evaluate client advancement and structure sessions for maximum progress
- Learn the different styles other therapists use to implement ACT in their own ways

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes:** *ACT Daily Journal* Diana Hill, Debbie Sorensen, 2021-05-01 Dramatically change your life in just minutes a day with this powerful guided journal. When you are faced with life's challenges, it's easy to lose track of what's important, get stuck in your thoughts and emotions, and become bogged down by day-to-day problems. Even if you've made a commitment to live according to your core values, the 'real-world' has a way of driving a wedge between you and a deeper, more meaningful life. Now there's a flexible program for learning how to practice a popular, proven-effective therapy protocol on your schedule! With The ACT Daily Journal, you'll learn all about the six core processes of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT)—including mindfulness, acceptance, and values-based living—and even learn about a seventh: self-compassion. If there was ever a time to adopt the ACT approach to living, it's now. By applying ACT to your life, you'll learn how to roll with life's punches, and stay in contact with the present moment, even when you have unpleasant thoughts, feelings, and bodily sensations. The gift of being present is becoming increasingly valuable in these uncertain times of conflict and chaos; it's never been so important to live flexibly, with more meaning, and with a deeper understanding of shared struggles and our inherent humanity. ACT is more than just a therapy—it's a framework for living well. It helps us accept. It teaches us to make a commitment to what we deeply care about. And it works best when practiced daily. Let this journal guide you toward what really matters to you.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes:** *The Happiness Trap* Russ Harris, 2013 A guide to ACT: the revolutionary mindfulness-based program for reducing stress, overcoming fear, and finding fulfilment - now updated. International bestseller, 'The Happiness Trap', has been published in over thirty countries and twenty-two languages. NOW UPDATED. Popular ideas about happiness are misleading, inaccurate, and are directly contributing to our current epidemic of stress, anxiety and depression. And unfortunately, popular psychological approaches are making it even worse! In this easy-to-read, practical and empowering self-help book, Dr Russ Harris, reveals how millions of people are unwittingly caught in the 'The Happiness Trap', where the more they strive for happiness the more they suffer in the long term. He then provides an effective means to escape through the insights and techniques of ACT (Acceptance and Commitment Therapy), a groundbreaking new approach based on mindfulness skills. By clarifying your values and developing mindfulness (a technique for living fully in the present moment), ACT helps you escape the happiness trap and find true satisfaction in life. Mindfulness skills are easy to learn and will rapidly and effectively help you to reduce stress, enhance performance, manage emotions, improve health, increase vitality, and generally change your life for the better. The book provides scientifically proven techniques to: reduce stress and worry; rise above fear, doubt and insecurity; handle painful thoughts and feelings far more effectively; break self-defeating habits; improve performance and find fulfilment in your work; build more satisfying relationships; and, create a rich, full and meaningful life.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes:** *The Therapeutic Relationship in the Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapies* Paul Gilbert, Robert L. Leahy, 2007-06-11 Although the therapeutic relationship is a major contributor to therapeutic outcomes, the cognitive behavioral psychotherapies have not explored this aspect in any detail. This book addresses this shortfall and explores the therapeutic relationship from a range of different perspectives within cognitive behavioral and emotion focused therapy traditions. The Therapeutic Relationship in the Cognitive Behavioral Psychotherapies covers new research on basic models of the process of the therapeutic relationship, and explores key issues related to developing emotional sensitivity, empathic understanding, mindfulness, compassion and validation within the therapeutic relationship. The contributors draw on their extensive experience in different schools of cognitive behavioral therapy

to address their understanding and use of the therapeutic relationship. Subjects covered include: · the process and changing nature of the therapeutic relationship over time · recognizing and resolving ruptures in the therapeutic alliance · the role of evolved social needs and compassion in the therapeutic relationship · the therapeutic relationship with difficult to engage clients · self and self-reflection in the therapeutic relationship. This book will be of great interest to all psychotherapists who want to deepen their understanding of the therapeutic relationship, especially those who wish to follow cognitive behavioral approaches.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Maps of Narrative Practice** Michael White, 2024-01-09 Michael White, one of the founders of narrative therapy, is back with his first major publication since the seminal *Narrative Means to Therapeutic Ends*, which Norton published in 1990. *Maps of Narrative Practice* provides brand new practical and accessible accounts of the major areas of narrative practice that White has developed and taught over the years, so that readers may feel confident when utilizing this approach in their practices. The book covers each of the five main areas of narrative practice—re-authoring conversations, remembering conversations, scaffolding conversations, definitional ceremony, externalizing conversations, and rite of passage maps—to provide readers with an explanation of the practical implications, for therapeutic growth, of these conversations. The book is filled with transcripts and commentary, skills training exercises for the reader, and charts that outline the conversations in diagrammatic form. Readers both well-versed in narrative therapy as well as those new to its concepts, will find this fresh statement of purpose and practice essential to their clinical work.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: ACT for Clergy and Pastoral Counselors** Jason A. Nieuwsma, Robyn D. Walser, Steven C. Hayes, 2016-07-01 For the first time ever, three pioneers in the field of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) present an edited volume that outlines how the core ACT processes can be applied to religious and spiritual care approaches. If you are a clergy leader or pastoral counselor, people struggling with difficult situations or life traumas frequently turn to you for guidance. And while you're passionate about helping, you may be unprepared for counseling people with certain mental health challenges. On the other hand, if you are a psychotherapist, you may need guidance in supporting your client's religious belief system in therapy. In either case, this book presents a powerful road map to help you provide the best care. In this book, you'll find a complete overview of ACT, as well as strategies for integrating ACT and issues related to spirituality. You'll also learn how the core processes of ACT—such as commitment to change and values-based living—can be seamlessly tied into spiritual and religious counseling, no matter your faith or therapeutic background. By teaching you how to fuse conceptual psychological and spiritual principles, this book will provide you with the tools needed to enhance your counseling skill set.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Borderline Personality Disorder** Patricia E. Zurita Ona, 2020-12-01 Motivate your BPD clients with values-based treatment! This 16-week ACT protocol will help you get started today. As you know, clients with borderline personality disorder (BPD) and emotion dysregulation often struggle with negative beliefs about themselves—beliefs that can lead to feelings of shame, problems with personal relationships, and dangerous behaviors. And while dialectical behavior therapy (DBT) is the standard treatment for BPD, more and more, acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) has shown promising results when treating BPD clients by helping them focus on their core values and forgiveness. *Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Borderline Personality Disorder* provides a comprehensive program for delivering ACT to clients with BPD. Using the session-by-session, 16-week protocol in this professional guide, you can help clients work through the main driver behind BPD—experiential avoidance—and gain the psychological flexibility needed to balance their emotions and begin healing. You can use this protocol on its own, or in conjunction with treatment. With this guide, you'll learn to target the fundamental causes of BPD for better treatment outcomes and happier, healthier clients.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: The ACT Matrix** Kevin L. Polk,

Benjamin Schoendorff, 2014-03 If you are an ACT practitioner or mental health professional, this eagerly awaited resource is an essential addition to your professional library. Acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) is an evidence-based therapy that has been successful in treating a variety of psychological issues, such as anxiety, depression, substance abuse, trauma, eating disorders, and more. In contrast to other treatment options, ACT has proven extremely effective in helping clients who are “stuck” in unhealthy thought patterns by encouraging them align their values with their thoughts and actions. However, the ACT model is complex, and it’s not always easy to use. Traditionally, ACT is delivered with a focus around six core processes that are often referred to as the hexaflex: cognitive defusion, acceptance, contact with the present moment, observing the self, values, and committed action. Each of these core processes serves a specific function, but they are often made more complex than needed in both theory and in practice. So what if there was a way to simplify ACT in your sessions with clients? Edited by clinical psychologists and popular ACT workshop leaders Kevin L. Polk and Benjamin Schoendorff, *The ACT Matrix* fuses the six core principles of acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) into a simplified, easy-to-apply approach that focuses on client actions and behavior as workable or unworkable, rather than good or bad. Most importantly, you’ll learn how this innovative approach can be used to deliver ACT more effectively in a variety of settings and contexts, even when clients are resistant or unmotivated to participate. This is the first book to utilize the ACT Matrix model, and it is a must-read for any ACT practitioner looking to streamline his or her therapeutic approach.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *Focusing in Clinical Practice: The Essence of Change*** Ann Weiser Cornell, 2013-08-05 Drawing on mindfulness, body psychotherapy and positive psychology, focusing teaches clients how to identify their inner awareness to spur change and therapeutic progress. This guide explains how to use focusing to treat a range of issues.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *The Jealousy Cure*** Robert L. Leahy, 2018-03-01 *The Jealousy Cure* unlocks the positive power of jealousy for happy relationships. —Foreword Reviews Solid counsel for those whose relationships are plagued by jealousy and the individuals it targets. —Library Journal starred review Could jealousy be a positive thing? In this groundbreaking book, Robert L. Leahy—author of the hugely popular self-help guide, *The Worry Cure*—invites you to gain a greater understanding of your jealous feelings, keep jealousy from hijacking your life, and create healthier relationships. We’ve all heard tales of the overly jealous spouse or significant other. Maybe we’ve even been that jealous person, though we may not want to admit it. It’s hard to imagine anyone sailing through life without either having feelings of jealousy or being the target of someone’s jealousy. But what if jealousy isn’t just a neurotic weakness? What if it signals that your relationship matters to you? In short—what if jealousy serves a purpose? In *The Jealousy Cure*, renowned psychologist Robert L. Leahy takes a more nuanced approach to tackling feelings of jealousy. In this compelling book, you’ll uncover the evolutionary origins of jealousy, and how and why it’s served to help us as a species. You’ll also learn practices based in emotional schema theory, cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT), acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT), and mindfulness to help you overcome the shame jealousy can bring, improve communication with your partner, and ultimately make room for jealousy while also making your relationship more meaningful. You will learn that confronting jealousy in your relationship does not have to be a catastrophe, but can redirect you and your partner to build more trust, acceptance, and connection. We often feel jealous because we fear losing the things or people that matter to us the most. With this insightful guide, you’ll discover how jealousy can both help and hurt your relationship, and learn proven-effective skills to keep jealousy in its place. This book has been selected as an Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies Self-Help Book Recommendation— an honor bestowed on outstanding self-help books that are consistent with cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) principles and that incorporate scientifically tested strategies for overcoming mental health difficulties. Used alone or in conjunction with therapy, our books offer powerful tools readers can use to jump-start changes in their lives.

**acceptance and commitment therapy steven hayes: *The Heart of ACT*** Robyn D. Walser,

2019-10-01 In *The Heart of ACT*, renowned acceptance and commitment therapy (ACT) trainer Robyn Walser explores ACT as a process-based therapy incorporating interpersonal, intrapersonal, and overarching and ongoing processes, as well as the integration of six core components of psychological flexibility to connect clinicians to the dynamic and relational implementation of ACT. Engaging clinical scenarios, therapeutic insights, and supervision dialogues are offered to help clinicians move beyond their conceptual understanding of ACT principles to master the nuances of the therapeutic relationship at the heart of ACT. Using the tips and strategies in this professional guide, you'll develop a flexible, grounded, and client-centered practice. With this comprehensive resource, you'll learn to cultivate an organic, process-driven practice, grounded in the heart of the therapeutic relationship and responsive to clients in the moment. *The Heart of ACT* is designed to mimic the supervision experience by presenting material in thought-provoking chapters grounded in real-life clinical situations and challenges. In the book, you'll also find supervision dialogues inspired by Walser's work with her supervisees, Carlton Coulter and Manuela O'Connell. Carlton and Manuela comment and ask questions related to the material in the book and their own ACT learning process. These are then addressed by Walser in a dialogue designed to assist clinicians in connecting to the material. These sections mimic the helpful mentoring process of one-on-one training and supervision, and offer insights into specific therapeutic challenges that can unfold in structured conversation. As the applications of ACT grow, so does the need for up-to-date professional resources. Unlike many advanced ACT books that focus on procedures and techniques, *The Heart of ACT* focuses on the heart of the therapeutic relationship, as well as the "soft skills" that are difficult to describe, but which often mark the difference between a merely good clinician and an excellent one. If you're looking to take your ACT delivery to a new, exciting level, this book is a must-have addition to your professional library.

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